

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are now pending in the application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection(s) in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wise et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,884,262) in view of Birdwell et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,108,706) and Brodsky et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,809,471). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Wise is generally directed toward voice operated search of the Internet. Examiner correctly notes that Wise does not teach an electronic programming guide. Examiner relies on Birdwell to provide the electronic programming guide and filtering of search results based on user preferences and past behavior. Examiner correctly notes that Birdwell does not disclose a programming guide indicating the program currently being enjoyed at the time of the user's request, or constraining the speech recognition based on the contents of the electronic programming guide. Examiner relies on Brodsky to provide an indicator for a currently viewed program in a word dictionary constructed from programming information relating to recently viewed programs. Neither Wise, Birdwell, nor Brodsky, however, either alone or combined, teach or suggest a system or method for accessing TV related information over the Internet that includes using an electronic program guide to constrain a search request to identify useful information relevant in determining what information the user is interested in retrieving, and filtering received search results based on the useful information.

In contrast, Applicant's claimed invention, as amended, independently recites using an electronic program guide to constrain a search request to identify useful information relevant in determining what information the user is interested in retrieving, and filtering received search results based on the useful information. This process differs from any possible combination of the teachings of Wise, Birdman, and Brodsky, in that the constraint of input speech to the electronic programming guide identifies categories and/or topics of interest to the user, and these categories and/or topics can and are used both in formulating the search query and in filtering the search results. An improved process is thereby obtained compared with any combination of Wise, Birdman, and Brodsky, obvious or otherwise. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the

Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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ATTACHMENT FOR CLAIM AMENDMENTS

The following is a marked up version of each amended claim in which underlines indicates insertions and brackets indicate deletions.

1. (Amended) A system for accessing supplemental network-resident information about an audio/video program comprising:

a network connection through which network-resident information may be obtained;

a speech recognizer receptive of a user's input speech request for information about a program;

a natural language parser coupled to said speech recognizer for extracting a semantic representation of the user's request for information;

a data store for storing a representation of an electronic program guide, said program[ming] guide having an indicator identifying the program being enjoyed by said user at the time of said user's request;

a search engine commander that issues at least one search request to at least one search engine through said network connection, wherein said search engine commander issues said at least one search request based on said semantic representation and using said representation of an electronic program guide to constrain said search request to identify useful information relevant in determining what information the user is interested in retrieving; and

a search results processor for receiving search results in response to said search request, for filtering said received search results based on said useful information, and for providing at least a portion of the received search results to the user as information about an audio/video program.

10. (Amended) A method of conducting a search for network-resident information about an audio/video program, comprising the steps of:

processing a user's input speech request for information about a program to generate a semantic representation;

formulating a search engine search request based on said semantic representation;

accessing a stored electronic program guide and using [an]the electronic program[ming] guide to constrain said search request to identify useful information relevant in determining what information the user is interested in retrieving, said program[ming] guide having an indicator identifying the program being enjoyed by said user at the time of said user's request;

sending said constrained search request to at least one search engine over a network;

receiving search results from said at least one search engine; and

filtering said received search results based on said useful information.